

Northern Ireland's Ocean Giants

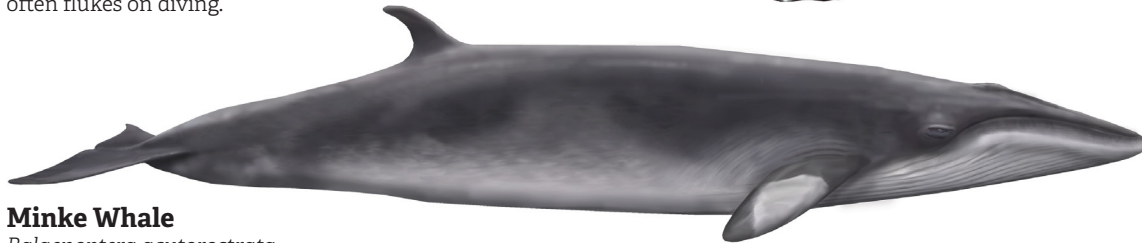


Humpback Whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

Adult length 11 to 16 metres

ID Notes: Low bushy blow, dorsal fin 2/3 way along back, often flukes on diving.



Minke Whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

Adult length 7 to 11 metres

ID Notes: No visible blow, dorsal fin 2/3 way along back, white band on flippers.



Killer Whale

Orcinus orca

Adult length 5.5 to 9.5 metres

ID Notes: White eye patch, very tall dorsal fin 1/2 way along back, grey saddle patch.



Basking Shark

Cetorhinus maximus

Adult length 5 to 11 metres

ID Notes: Tail and large dorsal fin visible at surface simultaneously.



Risso's Dolphin

Grampus griseus

Adult length 2.6 to 4 metres

ID Notes: Scarring makes older animals look white, tall dorsal fin 1/2 way along back.



Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

Adult length 2 to 4 metres

ID Notes: Large robust dolphin, grey in colour with white underside.



Human at same scale as illustrations.



Otter *Lutra lutra*

Adult length 1 to 1.3 metres

ID Notes: Mid to dark brown coat, tail 40% of body length, flattened head with broad whiskery muzzle.



Harbour (Common) Seal

Phoca vitulina

Adult length 1.35 - 1.9 metres

ID Notes: Smaller of the two seal species, mottled coat, dog-like face.



Grey Seal

Halichoerus grypus

Adult length 1.6 to 2.6m

ID Notes: Larger of the two seal species, horse-like face with 'Roman nose'.



Harbour Porpoise

Phocoena phocoena

Adult length 1.4 to 1.7 metres

ID Notes: The smallest of our cetaceans, dark grey body with small triangular dorsal fin.



Common Dolphin

Delphinus delphis

Adult length 1.7 to 2.7 metres

ID Notes: Slender in appearance, distinctive creamy yellow hourglass pattern along the sides.